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# SCRIP TALK

NATIONAL SCRIP COLLECTORS NEWS LETTER

Volume 42 ----- Issue 178

Fall Edition - September 2014

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92677



## Editor's Comments 9/14

The fall show is scheduled for November 1, 2014 at the Charleston, West Virginia Civic Center. This is a one day show. An adjacent room will be hosting a coin show. Rooms are available at the Holiday Inn, (855-729-5133) or (304-345-0600), next to the Civic Center. Please tell the reservation clerk you are with NSCA. Room rate for NSCA members is \$ 99.00 plus tax. Use code SCA.

Election of new officers will take place at the Charleston meeting. As noted in the June 2014 issue of ST, names of candidates are being solicited. This includes yourself if you are interested in being a candidate. Submit names to Bill Fugera, [fugewilj@cox.net](mailto:fugewilj@cox.net), Doug Tolley, [dtolley@suddenlink.net](mailto:dtolley@suddenlink.net), or Burley Williams, [jlcc44@bellsouth.net](mailto:jlcc44@bellsouth.net). If you do not have email, send a letter/postcard to

NSCA  
28732 Charreadas  
Laguna Niguel, Ca 92677

Sadly two of our members passed away recently. Our condolences to the families of

Larry Richardson of Lexington, Virginia  
D J Hutchison of Thomas, Oklahoma.

A chance to earn extra cash-- Please read Billy Campbell's offer of a \$5.00 reward if you can provide certain pieces of scrip. These scrip must be brought to the show for proof.

My grandsons Ryan and Michael, his parents and I toured the Lackawanna Coal mine in Scranton. Pennsylvania. This was a great experience for us. Inside ST are further details.

Please welcome the following new members to the NSCA.

Craig Baxter	Chuck Eyman	Dave Baker	Brad Johnson
Loxahatchee, Fla	Campaign, Ill	Beckley, WV	Middlesboro, Ky

The new **WEST VIRGINIA BOOK** is here! Price is \$40.00 plus \$5.00 postage for NSCA members and \$45.00 plus \$5.00 postage for non NSCA members. Save \$5.00 by purchasing at the show. Make check payable to NSCA. Send to

Fennie or Patsy Thacker  
7392 Big Ridge Road  
Haysi, VA. 24256

Please note--- In the 4<sup>th</sup> edition some pages were left blank for notes and to keep the page numbers the same as in the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. If you have a 3<sup>rd</sup> edition and a 4<sup>th</sup> edition, open to the same page number, you will find they match except for the new scrip and notes. There were some common scrip pictures that actually served no purpose other than to show some obverse scrip on the pages that are blank. Nothing has been left out except some bad pictures ( some of them were misidentified ). That would have increased the cost of the catalogue.



## GREETING SCRIPTORS

It's been a long time since the word Scriptors was used, matter of fact, spell check shows it as not being a correct word, but we scrip collectors know different. Lots of the past Scrip Talk issues had that word and many others coined just for scrip collectors.

What a ride it has been these past 18 months, lots of changes, updates and forward progress. More changes and excitement coming, a new slate of NSCA officers, Vol. I catalogue maybe by late fall, updated website and the Nov, 1 scrip meeting in Charleston, WV. I take scrip collecting very serious as you will see in an article MISSING SCRIP in this issue of Scrip Talk and I will personally place a interesting REWARD ad in the Charleston newspaper for West Virginia scrip to be brought to the Nov show by the general public.

I had great hopes of having a dinner meeting following the show in the meeting room 104, but the cost is prohibitive because the Civic Center has an exclusive caterer. The same with the Holiday Inn where we'll be staying, must be the same caterer. You should make room reservations now while they still have group rates, the code is SCA and the telephone number is 855-729-5133. We will still have a meeting in the show room at 5pm and there will be door prizes for those who attend the 5 pm meeting. New officers will be installed, updates on finance, catalogues and any other items brought to the floor.

The Vol. II 4th edition West Virginia catalogue has been received from the printer. I have spotted several errors and have many new listings that did not make the cutoff date to the designer. If you have items that need to be added to the catalogue please send them to me. I have a list that I will send anyone who wants the update if you'll either send me a request by email or a mail with a return stamped envelope.

Respectively  
Billy W. Campbell  
bwcok@knology.net

### **A Follow Up To Joe Copeland's Article - Duffield, Va, NSCA Meeting**

Jerry Schaeper Jr. wrote----

I learned that Paul Jensen died in Oct 1988, so just a few months after that group picture of 19 in current SCRIP TALK taken at Duffie'd, VA. Born 12-26-1916 – Died 10-11, 1988 at age 72. I remember he was looking bad, had oxygen in his room, perhaps at a Beckley show in early October. He left show to spend some time in Myrtle Beach, and died there. His room was a popular destination at scrip shows. Part of his ritual was to go around the hotel room and replace the lamp bulbs with 100 watt he brought from home, and of course he always had a mini-bar set up to lure people to his room. I first met Paul when a member of our Northern KY Coin Club told me I should contact him. He was living in Ft. Thomas, KY then, not far from me, then moved to Villa Hills KY after his wife died, also not far from me. We drove together to an ATCO token show in Omaha one year in the mid 1980's. He had so many stories about scrip hunting that I never got bored listening to him. Paul sold his scrip collection in 1981, not long after his wife died. I bought the KY's close to 2,000 pieces total. Amazingly, added around 1,000 to my collection from it, including condition upgrades. Although he started back collecting scrip in a smaller way, he told me he regretted selling his collection. He was, as they say, one of a kind.

## Billy W. Campbell Reward

There will be a \$5.00 cash reward just for physically showing to Billy W. Campbell or his designate any of the about 175 scrip described in the story on the presidents page of the NSCA website entitled Missing Scrip, [nationalscripcollectorsassociation.org](http://nationalscripcollectorsassociation.org) and listed below. Only one reward per scrip will be given. The War Eagle 2943 5a & b must be shown together and measured at the show and must be as shown in Edkins Catalogue. All scrip must be presented at the Fall Show in Charleston, W VA and must be as shown in Edkins Catalogue. Scans will not qualify. Severely worn or cleaned scrip where only brass is shown will not suffice for proof of scrip being brass when minted. Mutilated scrip will not qualify.

Alconquin 47	C5a Np	Laing 1553	G1a 1948
Alconquin 47	C10a N	Landgraff 1559	A25a N
Amherstdale 81	C5a Np	Landgraff 1559	A50a N
Amherstdale 81	J1b N	Lawton 1583	B10a Br
Amherstdale 81	O5a	Leslie 1613	F1a N
Amherstdale 81	O5b	Logan 1661	D10 Any
Amigo 83	F5a 19mm	Logan 1661	D50 Any
Amigo 83	H5b Br	Logan 1661	D100 Any
Ansted 93	A10b	Logan 1661	E1 Any
Ansted 93	B500a Np	Longacre 1671	A500b Np
Ansted 93	I25a no stars	Lorado 1677	E100a Np
Ashland 127	B10a	Lorado 1677	G1b N
Ashland 127	B10b	Lumberport 1695	C100a N
Beards Fork 177	J10a Al	Madeline 1731	A100b N
Beckley 189	H500b Rd	Mahan 1745	B25a N
Belle 203	C10a N	McAlpin 1831	F100a Br
Bellwood 209	B10a N	Meadowbrook 1865	A1b Al
Bellwood 209	C10a N	Mohawk 1931	A100b N
Berwind 239	C25a No star	Montcoal 1949	B1b Np
Birchton 275	A100b ctsp 4	Montcoal 1949	C1a Np 21mm
Blakely 296	B1b N	Montcoal 1949	C10a Np
Blue Jay 311	A5 Al	Morco 1952	A5b Np
Booth 343	B5a Br	Mt Clare 1989	C10b Br
Burch 413	B25a Br	Mt Clare 1989	C25b Br 2 stars
Burnwell 421	A1a Np	Mt Gay 1991	E1b N
Burnwell 421	A5b Np	Mt Hope 1995	A5b Np
Burnwell 421	A10a Np	Naugatuck2035	B1a No dot
Burnwell 421	A25a Br	Newhall 2059	A1a Al
Burnwell 421	A100a Br	Nuttallburg 2097	E10a Br
Carbondale 469	C1c Br	Olcott 2113	C100a Np
Carbondale 469	C1d Br	Omar 2123	B5b Br
Cassville 505	A25a N	Omar 2123	B50a Br
Cassville 505	C5a Np	Page 2161	E50a Br
Coopers 655	C5a N	Page 2161	E100b N
Crab Orchard 683	C1b Np	Panther 2173	D10b w word company
Cranberry 685	A5a Br	Pemberton 2199	A10a Br
Cranberry 685	C10a No rosettes	Piedmont 2219	A10a No stars
Crichton 697	D1a N	Prenter 2283	E10a Br
Crown 702	D5a Np	Puritan Mines 2311	D10b Br
Crumpler 707	C1b N	Puritan Mines 2311	D50b Br



Crumbler 707	C50b N	Ragland 2330	E1a Z
Cunard 717	B5b Br	Red Star 2375	D1b Br
Davis 743	B5b N	Rhodell 2389	G10a Br
Dorothy 823	B10a N	Rhodell 2389	G25a No stars
Dorothy 823	B100a Br	Rivesville 2415	A1b w/word gen
Dorothy 823	C1a Np	Scarbro 2531	A1a Br
Dunloop 853	A5a Np	Sharples 2573	D10b w/o words when due
Edgarton 877	A5a Br	Skelton 2599	A5a N
Elverton 921	E1a Br	Slagle 2605	A10a Np
Emmett 929	A50b N	Slagle 2605	A25b br
Eskdale 963	G1b Np	Slagle 2605	A100b N
Ethel 967	F25a Br	Slagle 2605	A500a Np
Ethel 967	G25a Br	Sprague 2635	D10b No stars
Eunice 969	C100a No stars	Sprague 2635	E5a br
Freeman 1065	B5a Np	Stanaford 2647	D5a N
Freeman 1065	B100a Br	Stone Branch 2679	A50b Br
Glén Morrison 1135	C1a Np	Summerlee 2711	A1b Br
Glen Morrison 1135	C10a Br	Swandale 2731	A1b Br
Glen Rogers 1137	C25b No stars	Swandale 2731	A5 Np
Goodwill 1151	A10a N	Tams 2753	A1b Np
Goodwill 1151	B5a Np	Tams 2753	A10a Br
Goodwill 1151	B25a Np	Tams 2753	B25a Br
Gordon 1153	A25a N	Thacker Mines 2771	A25b N
Gordon 1153	A25b Br	Thermo 2779	A100a N
Gordon 1153	B5a 1 diamond	Tunnelton 2845	D5a w/In Trade
Gordon 1153	B50a Br	Twin Branch 2855	B10b Br
Hamlet 1207	A25a Br	Van 2875	G100a Br
Hamlet 1207	D100a Np	Vivian 2917	G100a No stars
Hepzibah 1305	C100a No stars	Ward 2941	C1a Np
Herberton 1306	A100a N	Ward 2941	D1a No stars
Hiawatha 1315	E1b Np	War Eagle 2943	A5a,A5b, Measure
Holden 1341	B10b Np	Warwood 2947	A10a N
Holden 1341	E1b N	Wellsburg 2969	A1b No stars
Holden 1341	E1c No stars	Wheeling 2997	A5a Br
Hugheston 1365	A10b Br	Wheeling 2997	B1c No star and when due
Jenkin Jones 1439	A25a Br	Whitby 3005	B10a No diamond
Jodie1455	A1a Br	Whitby 3005	C5a No diamond
Kayford 1477	C1a N	Wickham 3019	A5a Br
Kempton 1489	B5a N	Widemouth 3021	B10a Np
Killarney 1513	A1a Br	Widen 3023	A25a Np
Killarney 1513	B5a Np	Wilkinson 3035	D1c Al
Kistler 1531	L10b N	Yerba 3113	A1a N
Kistler 1531	M25a Np	Yukon 3123	C5a Br
Kyle 1545	A10a Br		

### New Finds

#### LEEVALE, WVA, 1597, RALEIGH

Leevale Collieries Inc / 1 / Leevale, W. VA.  
F1, Br, 18, Co, Rd  
Isc Des Pat. / In Mdse Only

#### BURNWELL, WVA, 421, KANAWHA

Imperial Colliery Co. / 1 / ( CROWN )  
A1b, Ni, 18, Rd, Co  
ICS In Trade

#### BAYARD, WVA, 173, GRANT

The Emmons Coal Mining Co. of W.VA. /  
Not Transferable / 50 / Bayard / W. VA.  
A50, Br, 27, Rd, Sd  
Orco Pat. Pend.

#### COLMAR, KY., 635, BELL

Southern Mining Co. / 100  
B100, Br, 35, Rd, Co  
ICS

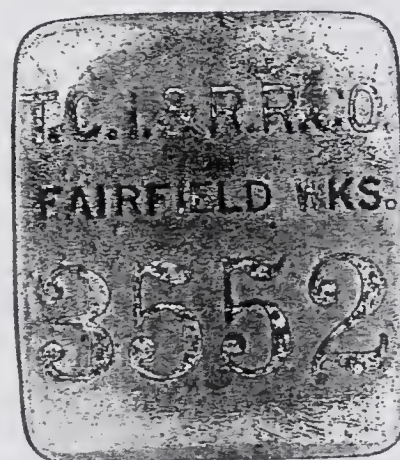


**BADGES**  
TENN COAL, IRON & RY CO  
WEST VIRGINIA PENITENTURY  
By Carl Heinrich

Dear Bill,

Enjoyed your article in Summer Issue of S. T. Enclosed are pictures of some badges which are connected to the mines you wrote about. The three T C I & RY CO badges are from their facilities in the Birmingham area. The Chief Special Deputy badge dates from WWI era and was used by the leader of T C I & RY CO security force who was commissioned as a deputy sheriff per law enforcement purposes on T C I & RY CO property.

The Road Guard West Virginia badge was used by chain gang guards working out of the Moundsville prison. If they had a separate badge for the prison mine operation I have never seen one. I also added a picture of the standard prison guards badge used at the main prison. Since the prison mine was near to the main facility, I am guessing that this style of badge would also have been used at the prison mine rather than go to the expense of having a special badge made up for just the mine.





## Slope 190

by Ryan Ruyle & Bill Fugera

We recently toured the Lackawana Coal Mine in Scranton, Pennsylvania. This Anthracite coal mine was opened in 1860 and closed in November, 1966. To enter the mine we got into a yellow people mine car that was used to haul miners when the mine was open. We were lowered into the mine by a cable attached to the mine car. The trip took several minutes. As we entered the mine we went around a curve and the daylight quickly disappeared. We went into the mine about a half mile and departed the mine car. Our guide, a retired coal miner, was very good at describing what we were seeing in the mine. The guide said we were under ground 300 feet straight up. Our trip into the mine was through Slope 190.

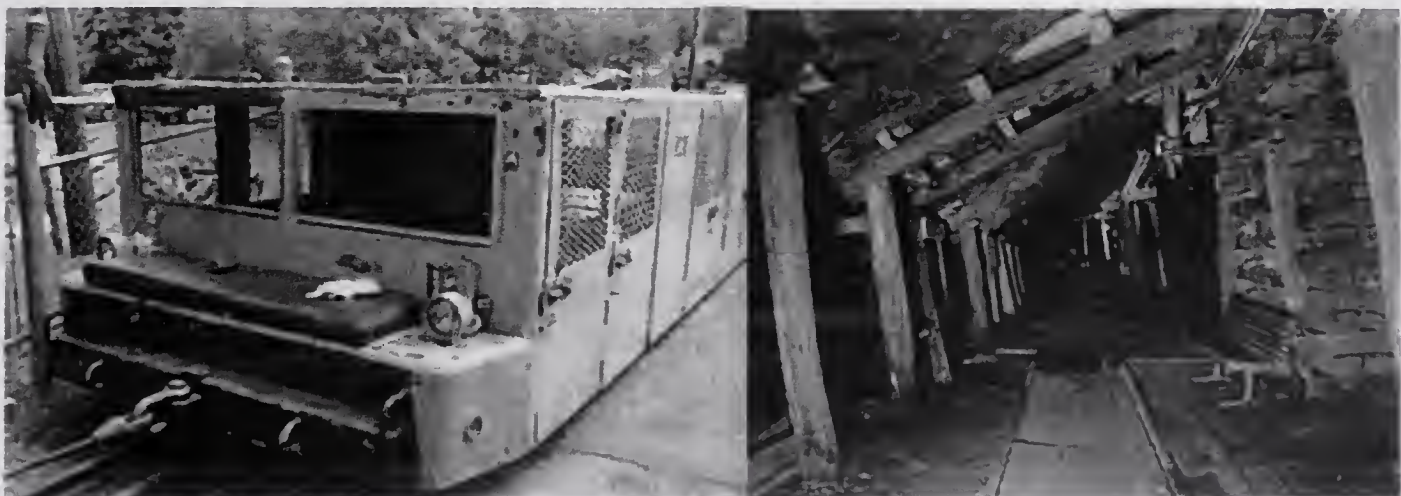
Slope 190 was a newer part of the mine. It was opened in 1959 to make it a shorter distance to haul coal to the tipple. Coal was dumped in a nearby tipple and hauled by truck to the Taylor Colliery for processing.

As we walked through three different tunnels we saw very shiny black coal that looked like polished rock. In some places we saw very bright rainbow colors on the coal. The guide said the colors were from various minerals that seeped through the coal layers. It is called Peacock coal and is sold in small pieces as souvenirs.

As we walked through the mine we were in some areas that some people had to bend down to not bump their heads. It was interesting to see the coal seams at angles as much as 50-60 degrees. See picture. This was caused by the uplifting of the strata over millions of years. We saw three different veins of coal. There were many posts a foot or more in diameter that held the mine roof from caving in. No roof bolts were seen in our tour.

To make the tour interesting, there were mannequins, fake mules, coal cars, mining tools and etc... that were placed in various areas to show how the coal was mined. The temperature was 52 degrees and damp in some places.

There are two other tourist coal mines in Pennsylvania that we plan to tour in the future.



## Seneca Glass Company

By Bill Fugera

I have a set of Seneca Glass Company scrip. This set of scrip, as you can see, is rather unusual and some what different than typical coal scrip. The metal is brass. There is no indication which token company manufactured it. Seneca had made glass in two locations. I have been unable to learn if the company store was at the Fostoria, Ohio or the Morgantown, West Virginia location.

Seneca was at one time the largest manufacturer of drinking glasses in the US. The company was also known for its high quality lead stemware, which was hand made for nearly a century. Customers included Eleanor Roosevelt, Lyndon Johnson, the president of Liberia, the Ritz Carlton Hotel, Tiffany's and Neiman Marcus.

The company took possession of their original plant in Fostoria, Ohio on January 1, 1892 after it was vacated by the Fostoria Glass Company. In 1896 the company moved to Morgantown, West Virginia. In 1982, the company was sold to a group of investors that renamed the firm Seneca Crystal Incorporated. The firm filed for bankruptcy in 1983. Today the Seneca Glass Company building is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and contains small retail shops, restaurant and offices. A framed set of the Seneca scrip hangs on a wall at this location.



### Contact List

Brad Johnson  
P O Box 266  
Middlesboro, Ky 40965  
Collects scrip and tokens  
From Middlesboro area

Dave Baker  
318 Jasper Dr  
Beckley, WV 25801  
304-255-6742  
[spartandave@suddenlinkmail.com](mailto:spartandave@suddenlinkmail.com)  
Collect WV counties of Raleigh, Fayette, Wyoming

Chuck Eyman  
1511 Maplecrest Dr  
Champaign, Ill 62821  
217-552-2266  
[cr\\_eyman@yahoo.com](mailto:cr_eyman@yahoo.com)  
collect coal scrip

Larry W. Laxton  
113 Smith St  
N Tazewell, VA 24639  
276-979-7081  
[laxtonlm@yahoo.com](mailto:laxtonlm@yahoo.com)  
collect Mercer County, WV, Tazewell County, VA



**~~~~~N.S.C.A. FREE ADS FOR MEMBERS~~~~~**

**Free Ads** are available to N.S.C.A. members at no charge. The only requirements being that they are limited to 4 lines, one ad per issue. You may send up to four different ads in one mailing. **Deadline for Free Ads is three weeks after the postmark of the current issue of SCRIP TALK.** All ads received after the deadline will be held for the following issue. No ad will rerun automatically, each issue will require a separate request. Paid ads should be sent to **SCRIP TALK** Editor and NOT the Free Ad Editor. **SEND ALL FREE ADS TO: Donald K. Clifford, N.S.C.A. Free Ad Editor, P.O. Box 65, St. Albans, WV 25177-0065 or E-mail: clff635@aol.com** (Note: + at the end of your ad indicates you need to renew it.)

**LET ME KNOW WHICH LIST YOU WANT:** - Civil War Tokens, Encased Cents, Enlonggated Cents, Casino chips, Trade or Sell, Request List: **Gene Miller, 3306 Startan Ct., Louisville, KY 40220 +**

**WANTED - FORDSON COAL SCRIP:** - All Nuttallburg Stores 2097 (Fayette) WV - Nuttallburg Commissaries 2097 (Fayette) WV - H 5b, H 50 - Twin Branch Stores 2855 (McDowell) WV - B 10a - Pond Creek Stores 1857 Pike) KY - A 25, A 100 - Banner Fork Commissaries 151 (Harlan) KY - B 1 c, B 5 b, B50, E 1 \* **Darrell Rainbolt, 1455 Short St, Corydon, IN 47112 drainbolt@frontier.com (812) 738-2579 +**

**WANTED: WEST VIRGINIA COAL SCRIP** Looking for scrip from Four States Supply, Osgood Camp, Pursglove, Glendale and Warwood. **Bill Fugera, 28732 Charreadas, Laguna Niguel, CA 92677 949-481-1242, fugewilj@cox.net +**

**WANTED:** West Virginia Merchant Tokens, Lumber tokens, & Greenbrier County Coal Scrip. Send a listing with your prices. **Don Clifford, P.O. Box 65, St. Albans, WV 25177. Email: clff635@aol.com**

**WANTED: MULENBERG COUNTY, KENTUCKY COAL SCRIP:** **Chuck Eyman, 1511 Maplecrest Drive, Champaign, IL 61821 (217-552-2266) +**

**FREE: 80 PAGE FIXED PRICE OFFERING,** Tokens & Assorted Exonumia, Write Soon. **Norm Peters, P.O. Box 29, Lancaster, NY 14086-0029**

**WANTED: KENTUCKY, VIRGINIA & W.VA. COAL & LUMBER SCRIP.** Email or send list to **Doug Tolley, 206 Michigan Ave., Beckley, WV 25801 (email: dtolley@suddenlink.net) +**

**FOR SALE: ISLAND CREEK STORES CO.** \$25 scrip book. Choice unused condition, each has 25-1¢, 15-5¢, 15-10¢, 10-25¢, 20-50¢, & 10-\$1.00 coupons. \$5.00 each postpaid. **Norman G. Peters, P.O. Box 29, Lancaster, NY 14086-0029**

**FOR SALE:** 100 Pieces coal scrip, lumber scrip, merchant "good for" tokens, mixture, \$100. Postpaid, **Fennie Thacker, 7392 Big Ridge Road, Haysi, VA 24256 +**

**FLORIDA TOKENS WANTED - FLORIDA TOKENS OF ALL TYPES WANTED.** Send 2 stamps for free sample of Florida Token Society's newsletter, TOKENNEWS and request free Florida token. Check out the Florida Token Society web site: <http://www.floridatokensociety.com> you can join and pay dues on-line! **Steve Ratliff, 1717 Saint Marys Bay Drive, Milton, FL 32583-7343 Steve@Ratliff.com check out my EBay sales**, many pieces of coal scrip. All starting at 99 cents. Search florida-token-collector, be sure to click box for "Include title and description." I buy outright and also auction consignment estates, let me know what you have.

**A REMINDER, "+" AFTER YOUR AD MEANS  
IT IS TIME TO RENEW**





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## ARE YOUR DUES PAID UP? PLEASE SEE THIS ISSUE'S ADDRESS LABEL!

NSCA, Inc. & the scrip hobby is 42+ years 'young'. The success of NSCA, it's publications & the growth of scrip collections are successful because of collectors. Please help NSCA & your collections grow by signing up new members!

1. One Year Membership - \$20
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3. Life Membership - \$400 or Senior Life Membership - \$300

Send dues payment to NSCA Inc., PO Bx 10113, Knoxville, TN., 37939

**The new Volume II, 4<sup>th</sup> edition, 'WV only' scrip, is now available!** Please place orders through:  
Fennie & Patsy Thacker, 7392 Big Ridge Rd., Haysi, VA. 24256    [fennieandpatsyt@hotmail.com](mailto:fennieandpatsyt@hotmail.com)

Volume I, 4<sup>th</sup> edition, 'all other states', has been sent for proofing, placing cutouts on pages & basically getting the book's computer file in digital format for printing. The catalog is expected prior to the November 1<sup>st</sup> 2014, Fall Scrip Show, in Charleston. Let's hope that deadline will be fulfilled!!!!

**THERE ARE NO LONGER ANY NEW MEMBERSHIP W/FREE BOOK OFFER's. DUE TO BOOK INVENTORIES! Both 3<sup>rd</sup> editions of Edkin's catalogs are sold out!**

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### **TREASURE'S REPORT:**

<b><u>Balance from MARCH 2014 Scrip Talk</u></b>	<b><u>\$8,462.55</u></b>
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### **INCOME:**

Club Dues-Since June '14 Scrip Talk with 3 more new members	\$270.00
NET Books Sales since June ST (includes 1 <sup>st</sup> sales of the new Volume II)	1460.00
Scrip Talk advertising sales (last 3 issues)	60.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b><u>\$1,790.00</u></b>

### **EXPENSES:**

Final payment to print Volume II	\$3,643.86
Set up fund for Editor's expenses of preparing Scrip Talk	400.00
Scrip Talk JUNE 2014 issue---printing & supplies	226.80
Scrip Talk JUNE 2014 issue---USPS	124.60
Paid, in advance, Charleston Civic Ctr, ½ pymt for Fall Scrip Show room rental	170.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b><u>-\$4,565.26</u></b>

<b><u>BALANCE as of SEPTEMBER 2014 Scrip Talk</u></b>	<b><u>\$5687.29</u></b>
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**SEE THE ADDRESS LABEL FOR MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL DATE!**

Questions?? Email the Secretary/Treasurer: [nscainc@gmail.com](mailto:nscainc@gmail.com)  
or contact President Bill Campbell: [bwcok@knology.net](mailto:bwcok@knology.net)

**Visit the Club's website: [www.nationalscripcollectors.org](http://www.nationalscripcollectors.org)**

## Tagus Ranch

Tulare, California

By Bill Fugera

Tagus Ranch was created in 1912 by Hulett C. Merritt, a millionaire, at the age of 18. The name Tagus is from Commandante Tagus who was an Emissary for a Spanish governor of California. Tagus discovered the nearby ( now dry ) Tulare Lake in 1773. Tagus was also the name of a near by Southern Pacific Railroad switching location. Tagus Ranch was the largest farm in the world before closing in 1964. It was located in the rich fertile California San Joaquin Valley three miles north of Tulare on Route 99.

The ranch started off with 3,000 acres and later expanded to 7,000 acres. Crops included apricots, peaches, nectarines, prunes, grapes, berries, cotton, and others. A cotton gin was also located on the ranch. The ranch produced fruit of such quality, that one orchard was kept specifically for the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York City. For the period of 1923 –1928, the largest number (3,000 ) of purebred hogs in the nation were raised here. There were many prize winners, noted to be the largest hogs in the nation. One hog was said to have weighed 1,000 pounds.

Tagus Ranch had 14 labor camps consisting of housing and had to rely on additional tents to help accommodate up to 2,500 permanent and seasonal workers. Over time the ranch became a self contained community with a store, school, gas station, post office, garage, carpenter shop, machine shop, barbershop, cafes, restaurant, motel, bank, and church.

For a time period the ranch hands were paid in scrip. The scrip is not very common and is found at times via coin/token dealers and on ebay. Note the branding iron design of the T. All of the scrip is brass. Information of the use of scrip is vague, It is noted scrip use was discontinued in 1933. At this time there was a major wage strike for 10 days. The workers were making 15 cents per hour. The strike resulted in an increase of wages to 25 cents per hour. The federal government at this time ruled the Tagus scrip was unconstitutional.

Of interest was the internment of 238 German prisoners of war from August 1,1944- February 13,1946. They were used as laborers as needed. The prison facilities consisted of Quonset huts, admin barracks, mess hall/kitchen, canteen, and latrine/shower buildings. The prisoners were relatively trouble free and were noted to enjoy the ranch living. Beats being shot at.

Living conditions for the workers and their families were some what worse when compared to those of the coal camps. Basically housing was a one or two room shack with outhouses and communal showers. Light would shine through cracks in the walls. Pots and pans covered the floors during rain due to leaking roofs. Many clothes were made from flour sacks. Cooling was from fans during the 105 –110 degree summer months. The houses were poorly insulated. Cooking was done on wood fired stoves. One family of 11 had a one room house plus use of an adjacent two room house for the kitchen.

Recreation for the children was very basic. During the summer ranch residents swam in the irrigation ditches. The grade school ( 1-8 ) doubled as a movie theater with 10 cent showings using the school projector. Children took peach boxes, added wheels and made wagons. Hopscotch was a common game. After the German prisoners were moved, one of the Quonset huts served as a roller rink.

A story of interest was that of Sim Iness. Sim was a son of a Oklahoma share cropper who migrated west during the dust bowl era. He traveled in the back of a dilapidated Model A truck stacked with mattresses and other household items and settled at Tagus Ranch. The family of seven lived in a one room shack with a dirt floor. The family picked fruit at 25 cents per hour. Sim went to Tulare Union High School and later to Southern California University on a track scholarship. He later won a gold medal ( discus ) at the 1952 Olympics. Proof that hard work and perseverance pays off.



The well known author, John Steinbeck, after the ranch strike, interviewed labor leaders and traveled around Tulare County gathering background information he used for characters and events in his book titled In Dubious Battle published in 1936. Steinbeck also used Tagus Ranch as a model for Hooper Ranch, a setting in his 1939 novel The Grapes of Wrath.

There were several famous people that had worked at the ranch. Two examples----Roy Rogers, while still known by his birth name Leonard F. Slye spent a season picking fruit before becoming famous. Richard Deacon from The Dick Van Dyke show in 1961-1966 tended bar at the Tagus Ranch restaurant before fame. It was rumored that Richard Nixon worked there as a young adult. No evidence can be found

Merritt died in 1956 at the age of 83. A large portion of the ranch was sold the following year and the remainder closed in 1964. The farmers that purchased the land still farm it. My wife and I drove by the ranch in May. We saw hundreds of pistachio trees from our vantage point. Reunions are held every year for past residents and workers. In my opinion, Tagus Ranch is an great story of American history. Many historical items from the ranch and Tulare county are on display at the Tulare Museum.



## Company Store Trivia

By Bill Fugera

A picture is worth a thousand words. As I was perusing through the book West Virginia Company Stores by Dale Payne, I noticed a number of things in the pictures. There were many interesting stories told by just looking at the pictures.

First there were many different company store structural designs. Some of the architectural styles were Moderne, Classical Revival Style, Box Plan, Late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> Century American Movements, and etc.... The architectural design for three of the stores, in my opinion, was unique for a coal company located off the beaten path. The Pocahontas Fuel Company at Jenkin Jones, built in 1917 was designed by architect Alex Mahood and was fashioned in the Classical Revival style. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1992. The Upland Coal & Coke Company in Elkhorn had a huge castle – like structure which was built in 1903. When I saw the picture I thought of the Excaliber casino in Las Vegas. Not a replica by any means. Also in Elkhorn was the store of The Crozer Coal & Coke Company. Their store reminded me of a Bavarian style structure. The worse looking company stores were The Paint Creek Coal Mining Company at Standard and The Otto Marmet Coal & Mining Company located at Raymond City. It was tough to pick a good looker. There were many stores that were aesthetically eye appealing.

Most of the stores were made of wood. Not surprising since there was an abundance of forests to supply lumber. The most common thread was the size of the stores. Basically most of the stores were large structures. Information of square footage was not available. There were several of brick and stone. The large sizes were probably of storage necessity. I assume there were mine offices such as payroll in many of them. Several did contain post offices, drug stores and ice cream parlors. The Cabin Creek Land Company's store in Decota contained a bottling company called The Cabin Creek Bottling Company. The cherry and grape sodas were their fame. There was also an ice house located here. The ice was cut out of the nearby creek and packed in a separate room and covered with straw. The Cabin Creek Land Company later became part of the Carbon Fuel Company.

I'm sure the geographic location dictated the type of construction, such as hills, streams, railroad proximity----- A number of the stores had a rail siding very convenient for unloading merchandise. The rail siding backed up to the store platform making it easy to unload heavy furniture and appliances. The company store for The Loup Creek Colliery at Beards Fork was built on a hillside. It had three different ground entrances all on different levels.

Although many of the coal company stores were built originally in areas only accessible by train or horse, it was interesting to see that several stores had gasoline pumps. Also there were many pictures showing automobiles parked at the stores. Some of the miners could afford automobiles. As wages improved with unionization it appears there was a correlation with automobile ownership. In today's market these cars would be worth big bucks. Many of the pictures did contain pictures of horses and wagons. The Leewood Colliery Company store in Leewood had a Union 76 gasoline pump and sign in front of the store. This was surprising since Union Oil was mainly a western company. The gasoline was added after a new store was built following a fire that destroyed the original store in 1936. At that time Union was making inroads into West Virginia. The Pocahontas Consolidated Coal Company at Switchback provided gasoline from Esso as well as The Mary Francis Coal Co at Robson and The New River Company at Mt Hope. As time passed and miners earned more money, car ownership increased.

Many of the pictures in the book showed large numbers of people hanging out at the company stores. It is a known fact that the company store was the gathering place to socialize and relax especially on a weekend. I noticed that many of the men wore white shirts and there were a



number of neckties. I personally remember as a teen hanging out at the local grocery store in Lowesville. If we had money, a soft drink, candy bar or a pint of ice cream was part of the social scene. It was just a tradition to gather at the local store.

Another point to make is that when there was a picture of the interior it could be seen that many of these stores were great merchandisers. Display cases were made of glass. Canned goods were neatly stacked. The aisles were roomy. The clerks were neat and well dressed. Several of the interior pictures showed Christmas decorations with large inventories of toys. Of course the intent was to motivate a captive customer to help the coal company's bottom line. I remember the same thing at the company store at Jordan where my parents would shop.

Some other observations ---- The Star Coal & Coke Company at Red Star had a pot belly stove in their store. I didn't see that in any other interior picture. It is possible the pictures were taken in the summer and the stoves were seasonally removed. Many stores most likely had central heat.

Loup creek Colliery at Page had a delivery truck to deliver groceries and other merchandise to miner's homes. Prior to motor vehicles, mules and horses were used. It was pretty cool to have a mule deliver groceries.

I can't leave out the fact that a dog was in the picture of three stores. One was at Dott, one at Notomine and the other was at Tamroy. The dog at Dott was either a fox hound or a Walker coonhound. The dog at Notomine was definitely a Blue Tic coonhound. The third dog was medium size and was white, most likely not a hunting dog. Being a former owner of a Red Tic coonhound, I am a coonhound person. At a coal camp, a hound would be desirable to help put food on the table. Hunting was a very common sport in a coal camp. When I grew up in Lowesville, every household contained guns. Beagles and coonhounds were very numerous.

Fire was a constant hazard for the company stores. Fourteen were noted as burned down. The company store for the National Bituminous Coal & Coke Company at Eskdale was destroyed by fire in February, 1913. This occurred during the major coal strike of 1912-1913. Eskdale was the scene of many union rallies, trouble and violence during the strike. A coincidence? Kellys Creek Coal Company at Ward burned down twice. The Store for Cabin Creek Consolidated Coal Company at Cherokee was destroyed by a flood. There was severe flood damage to the store for Red Warrior Coal company at Warrior.

During the coal strike and mine war of 1912-1913, The Carbon Coal Company of Decota had iron gates installed in the entrance archway and a machine gun mounted on the roof of the company store. The building was located at the forks of a creek thereby all persons going to any of the mining operations or towns above Decota had to pass by the guard station there.

In Monongalia County, WVA, I am aware of two company stores being used as private residences. These are at Osgood Camp and Booth, West Virginia. The company store at National stood empty for many years until it fell in disarray. It was a wooden structure and was never maintained after it was vacated. I drove past it a "thousand" times and watched it deteriorate.

Preservation of any remaining company stores is a good practice where feasible to keep this important part of history available for the younger generation.

Thanks to **Doug Tolley** for proof reading and providing suggestions for this article.

Donald Edkins only lists A1 Cranberry Fuel Co. No 8 (Orco Pat. Pend.) with Chevron cut out as R-5 in Vol. II first edition and has been carried forward through the third edition. I will list my finding on researching this item. Ifragree 1385 A1

1. For some reason there was never a county attributed in the catalogue.
2. Upon a search of Place Names in West Virginia I find no town by that name.
3. Upon a search of West Virginia by internet I find no town by that name.
4. The website Office of Miners Health Safety and Training does not have a listing by that name.
5. Dordill has no listing of a Cranberry Fuel No. 8. His mine numbers only go to #4.
6. Dordill lists #4 as Property (sic) most likely Prosperity in operation from 1907 to 1911.
7. All Cranberry Fuel mines I have found are in Raleigh County, 2-3 miles North of Beckley.
8. I have found no listing of Cranberry Fuel Co. No. 8 in the mine reports I have checked.
9. John Byars wrote "I can't find a town with that name anywhere in the U. S.
10. Kevin Andersen wrote "I cannot find that town name anywhere".
11. David Schenkman wrote "I've puzzled over that listing also. No luck".
12. Donald Clifford wrote "I don't know where Ifragree is. The state listing of places in W. Va. doesn't list Ifragree.

CRANBERRY-685, Cranberry Fuel No.1 has Orco Pat. Pend with the fat plus symbol.

SKELTON -2599, Cranberry Fuel No. 2 has Orco Pat. Pend with the Chevron cut out.

SPRAGUE-2635, Cranberry Fuel No. 3 has Orco Pat. Pend. with the broken point arrow cut out.

On 5-25-14 I was talking to Thomas Smith about this scrip, I decided to look at all my Skelton, WV scrip which used a chevron as a cutout. When I looked at the Cranberry Fuel Co. No. 2 D1, I found what appears to be an 8 instead of a 2. Upon using 7x magnifier it was readily apparent that the 2 could easily be mistaken for an 8. The open upper left of the 2 has a thin filled line and the bottom right of the 2 also has a thin filled line giving the appearance of an odd 8.

On 5-26-14 Kevin Andersen sent an email that said "I have the same scrip that you have with the 2 appearing as an 8, there is evidence of a doubling on both scrip at the same place". It appears that the die maker did not do a good job. Kevin also stated I agree with your conclusion on this token and continued by saying "I wonder if this listing actually started out with the person submitting the "new find" as you state, with the possibility of misreading the No. 2 as No. 8 and perhaps the submitter wrote on the foil or paper rubbing, the additional note of "If agree or If u agree". meaning do you agree with this as a new find or something to that effect? Then Edkins could have misunderstood the notation as some folks write their lower case "u" to look kind of like a lower case "r"? All this time we've been looking for a town that never existed. Perhaps the original foil or paper rubbing file would shed some light on this if the West Virginia foils can be ever be found.

Conclusion; Ifragree A1 No. 8 scrip was really Skelton D1 No. 2 scrip, a bad token submitted on a bad paper rubbing or foil. Ifragree was removed from the Edkins 4th edition catalogue. The town name I have no idea why it was listed but Kevin's thoughts bear weight. Looking for answers and now the foils.